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# Special Help for Special Children

State of Montana

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# 7,159\*

SPECIAL CHILDREN are children in our public schools who have special handicaps which prevent them from deriving adequate benefit from regular classroom teaching.

\*7,159 special handicaps were reported among Montana's elementary public school children, according to a "Teacher Survey of Exceptional Children" conducted during the 1962-63 school year by the State Department of Public Instruction, Helena, Montana. In this survey, teachers reported that more than 1 of every 17 children need special help.

ALL DATA IN THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE FROM THIS SURVEY . . .

## MONTANA

#### SPECIAL CHILDREN . . .

... were identified by 4,612 elementary teachers as being in need of special education services, equipment or instruction to benefit most effectively from public school education.

Number of Special Problems Reported		Type of Special	Problems
3,423		Learning	Problems
1,529		Speech I	Difficulties
972		Hearing	Problems
729		Physical	Handicaps
506		Vision	Problems

7,159 Total Number of Special Problems Reported

### BEAVERHEAD

- 19 learning problems
- 20 speech difficulties
- 16 hearing problems
- 4 physical handicaps
- 9 vision problems

68 Total problems reported

## **BIG HORN**

- 94 learning problems
- 20 speech difficulties
- 13 hearing problems
- 10 physical handicaps
- 10 vision problems

## 147 Total problems reported

# Why Do Special Children

- BECAUSE the regular classroom instruction does not meet the needs of special children with problems of learning, speech, hearing, physical handicaps and vision.
- BECAUSE the regular classroom teacher cannot teach a regular class and also provide special children with the special help they need.

It would not be fair to the regular class, or to the special children.

# Need Special Help?

- BUT PRIMARILY because it is our goal to give each of our elementary children the best education possible.
- MONTANA'S public schools provide an opportunity for this education for most children in regular classrooms.
- BUT OUR special children require special facilities or special instruction.

There are five groups of these special children. . .

### BLAINE

- 58 learning problems
- 18 speech difficulties
- 13 hearing problems
- 9 physical handicaps
- 4 vision problems

102 Total problems reported

## BROADWATER

- 14 learning problems
- 5 speech difficulties
- 3 hearing problems
- 4 physical handicaps

26 Total problems reported

## CARBON

- 50 learning problems
- 33 speech difficulties
- 16 hearing problems
- 13 physical handicaps
- 8 vision problems

### CARTER

- 14 learning problems
- 12 speech difficulties
- 6 hearing problems
- 1 physical handicap
- 1 vision problem

34 Total problems reported

## CASCADE

- 355 learning problems
- 163 speech difficulties
- 92 hearing problems
- 86 physical handicaps
- 35 vision problems

731 Total problems reported

### CHOUTEAU

- 26 learning problems
- 12 speech difficulties
- 5 hearing problems
- 4 physical handicaps
- 4 vision problems

## Group 1

## The Child With

WHO

He is failing in his school work.

IS

He cannot work at his grade level.

He has repeated grades.

THIS

He has been promoted because of his size and age, not for the work he has done.

CHILD!

He is upset because he cannot keep up his school work.

6

## Learning Problems

3,423 Learning Problems Reported

WHAT

 He needs a check of vision and hearing to discover if such handicaps are causing his difficulty.

**DOES** 

He needs an individual test by a psychologist to measure learning strengths and weaknesses, and to find out if mental retardation exists.

HE

**NEED!** He needs assignment to a special class if he is eligible.

#### CUSTER

- 61 learning problems
- 20 speech difficulties
- 25 hearing problems
- 20 physical handicaps
- 3 vision problems

129 Total problems reported

## DANIELS

- 9 learning problems
- 5 speech difficulties
- 2 physical handicaps

16 Total problems reported

## DAWSON

- 67 learning problems
- 44 speech difficulties
- 38 hearing problems
- 12 physical handicaps 16 vision problems

## DEER LODGE

27 learning problems

10 speech difficulties

3 hearing problems 2 physical handicaps

4 vision problems

46 Total problems reported

### FALLON

27 learning problems

21 speech difficulties

12 hearing problems
3 physical handicaps

6 vision problems

69 Total problems reported

## FERGUS

86 learning problems

40 speech difficulties

30 hearing problems

36 physical handicaps

23 vision problems

215 Total problems reported

# Finding Special Children ...

- Psychological testing is a way of measuring the child's learning or problem solving ability.
- The child's score is compared with the scores of thousands of children of the same age.
- Psychological testing is a valuable tool in determining how best to help a pupil who is seriously behind the learning requirements of his grade.
- Testing is done by trained, professional persons.
- Presently all of the public schools in the entire state of Montana rely for the most part on mental hygiene clinics in:

Great Falls Missoula Helena Butte Billings

This presents difficulties: There is a waiting list; there is a fee schedule; there is the problem of traveling expense; there is at times a fear, unnecessary but real, about psychological tests away from the home town.

## ... Helping Them

WE HAVE forty-eight classes for retarded children.

WE NEED many more special classrooms to help our pupils with serious learning problems.

HERE ARE a few facts about special classrooms for retarded children:

- Classes are small, with only 7-15 pupils, making individual instruction possible.
- Classes have specially trained teachers.
- Instruction is given at the child's own rate of learning. It is geared to his individual learning needs. Only eligible students are admitted, after special testing.
- Special administrative guidance from the State Department of Public Instruction is provided.
- Districts may combine to provide special classrooms for special children.

### FLATHEAD

- 145 learning problems
  - 71 speech difficulties
  - 59 hearing problems
  - 30 physical handicaps
  - 13 vision problems

318 Total problems reported

### GALLATIN

- 91 learning problems
- 45 speech difficulties
- 30 hearing problems
- 20 physical handicaps
- 10 vision problems

## GARFIELD

- 7 learning problems
- 6 speech difficulties
- 1 hearing problem
- 3 vision problems

17

Total problems reported

#### GLACIER

- 137 learning problems
- 27 speech difficulties
- 15 hearing problems
- 16 physical handicaps
- 30 vision problems

225 Total problems reported

### GOLDEN VALLEY

- 8 learning problems
- 2 hearing problems
- 1 physical handicap

## Frequent Questions About Children With Special Problems

1. How do you recognize a "special child" who needs "special help?"

2. What does "mentally retarded" really mean?

3. Are children who fail consistently in school always mentally retarded?

4. Does putting a child in a special class make him feel "different?"

## Answers . . .

The special child is recognized when his handicap prevents him from benefiting effectively from the regular classes in school. A child with a handicap which does not interfere with his progress in school is not eligible for special help.

"Retarded" means "slowed." A mentally retarded child does not develop mentally as fast as other children. He does not learn as quickly as other children do and generally cannot learn as much.

No. Poor vision or hearing or severe emotional disturbance may also keep a child from making expected progress in school. Such a child should have a medical check-up and an eye and ear examination, as well as a test of his ability to learn (psychological evaluation) if he fails repeatedly in school or is promoted only because of size and age.

The child who is failing in the regular classroom because of a handicap already feels "different" because he is not able to do what others his own age can do. In the special class he has the chance to succeed at his own level and rate of accomplishment. He does not feel like a failure or feel rejected.

### GRANITE

- 19 learning problems
- 8 speech difficulties
- 3 hearing problems
- 3 physical handicaps
- 2 vision problems

35 Total problems reported

## HILL

- 101 learning problems
- 25 speech difficulties
- 19 hearing problems
- 7 physical handicaps
- 7 vision problems

159 Total problems reported

## **JEFFERSON**

- 24 learning problems
- 10 speech difficulties
- 5 hearing problems
- 3 physical handicaps
- 2 vision problems

## JUDITH BASIN

- 16 learning problems
- 6 speech difficulties
- 1 hearing problem
- 3 physical handicaps
- 3 vision problems

### Total problems reported

## LAKE

104 learning problems

- 45 speech difficulties 21 hearing problems
- 17 physical handicaps
- 11 vision problems
- 198 Total problems reported

## LEWIS & CLARK

- 101 learning problems
- 58 speech difficulties
- 35 hearing problems
- 32 physical handicaps
- 22 vision problems

### 748 Total problems reported

## Group II

## The Child With A

## WHAT ARE THIS CHILD'S **PROBLEMS?**

- He may talk in a way others find difficult to understand.
- He may stutter.
- He may substitute, omit, or distort certain speech sounds.
- He may be seriously disturbed because of his inability to talk like others.
- His handicap may grow worse if an inexperienced person tries to correct it with ridicule, coercion or other wrong methods.

# Speech Difficulty

## 1,529 Speech Difficulties Reported

## WHAT HELP CAN WE GIVE HIM?

- We can check his hearing to determine if he hears speech sounds correctly.
- We can give him special speech therapy. This speech therapy can be given best by a speech therapist who will: Test hearing; help the teacher improve speech in the classroom; encourage the teacher and the child's parents to follow through with speech correction, and help improve his speech at home.

# THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Most speech problems are the result of slow and improper speech development, and are not caused by physical or mental defects.
- Speech defects can be improved or eliminated by speech therapy given daily, weekly, or as required.

## LIBERTY

- 3 learning problems
- 6 speech difficulties
- 3 hearing problems
- 4 physical handicaps
- 3 vision problems
- 19 Total problems reported

## LINCOLN

- 67 learning problems
- 42 speech difficulties
- 26 hearing problems
- 9 physical handicaps
- 14 vision problems
- 158 Total problems reported

## MADISON

- 10 learning problems
- 6 speech difficulties
- 1 hearing problem
- 3 physical handicaps
- 2 vision problems

## McCONE

29 learning problems

20 speech difficulties

17 hearing problems
5 physical handicaps

8 vision problems

79 Total

Total problems reported

## MEAGHER

15 learning problems

2 speech difficulties

8 hearing problems
2 physical handicaps

4 minimum and the

4 vision problems

31 Total problems reported

## MINERAL

15 learning problems

4 speech difficulties

2 hearing problems

1 physical handicap

1 vision problem

## Group III

## The Child With A

HIS PROBLEMS

- Since hearing loss is sometimes hard to recognize, nobody may even know that he has a problem.
- He may have defective speech because he has defective hearing, and cannot hear the speech sounds.
- If this child gets no help, he may fail in his class because he can't understand the teacher.
- He may be rejected by other children because he cannot participate successfully. Others may laugh at him.
- He may become a school problem, a dropout, or a truant. He may eventually detach himself completely from society.

# Hearing Problem

## 972 Hearing Problems Reported

# NEEDS

- He needs help from a speech and hearing therapist, or a special education class in a special classroom.
- If his speech has suffered because of lack of hearing, he will need speech correction and help in word and language development.
- He may need instruction in lip reading skills.
- He may need a hearing aid.

## BACK-GROUND

- At least 972 Montana pupils are reported as having some hearing loss. There may be more; no comprehensive study by speech and hearing therapists has been possible.
- Only one public school in Montana has a special education class for hard-of-hearing pupils.

## MISSOULA

- 200 learning problems
- 90 speech difficulties
- 36 hearing problems
- 40 physical handicaps
- 22 vision problems

388 Total problems reported

## MUSSELSHELL

- 17 learning problems
- 7 speech difficulties
- 6 hearing problems
- 1 physical handicap
- 2 vision problems

33 Total problems reported

## PARK

- 59 learning problems
- 23 speech difficulties
- 11 hearing problems
  14 physical handicaps
- 12 vision problems
- ---

119 Total problems reported

15

#### PETROLEUM

- 2 learning problems
- 1 speech difficulty 2 hearing problems
- 1 physical handicap
- 1 vision problem

7

Total problems reported

## PHILLIPS

- 31 learning problems
- 6 speech difficulties
- 7 hearing problems
- 7 physical handicaps
- 5 vision problems

56 Total problems reported

## PONDERA

- 45 learning problems
- 16 speech difficulties
- 9 hearing problems
- 9 physical handicaps
- 10 vision problems

## Group IV

## The Child Who is

## HIS HANDICAPS ARE PHYSICAL

- He may be a cripple who uses an orthopedic appliance, a crutch or a brace.
- He may have an orthopedic problem such as a curved spine or broken back.
- He may be cerebral palsied, or a post-polio victim.
- He may have a weakening or crippling disease which limits his strength or his activity, such as congenital heart disease, asthma, epilepsy or rheumatic fever.
- He may have more than one handicap with multiple problems.

# Physically Handicapped

## 729 Physical Handicaps Reported

# He may be crippled only temporarily, and in need of home instruction or a school-to-home telephone circuit to keep up with his school work until he is well enough to return to classes.

- Although crippled, he may be able to attend a regular school if special transportation or help with facilities is provided, such as a ramp to get a wheel chair upstairs.
- He may require physical therapy, special education, and extra care in a special class for crippled children.

# ARE WE MEETING

HIS NEEDS

DEPEND

ON

There are only two schools which provide special education classrooms for physically handicapped children. These are located at the Rehabilitation Center, Great Falls, and the Center for Cerebral Palsy and Handicapped Children, Billings.

## POWDER RIVER

- 6 learning problems
- 1 speech difficulty
- 1 hearing problem
- 2 physical handicaps
- 1 vision problem

11 Total problems reported

## POWELL

- 43 learning problems
- 10 speech difficulties
- 6 hearing problems
- 19 physical handicaps
- 16 vision problems

94 Total problems reported

### PRAIRIE

- 24 learning problems
- 11 speech difficulties
- 12 hearing problems
- 4 physical handicaps
- 6 vision problems

## RAVALLI

- 69 learning problems
- 32 speech difficulties
- 16 hearing problems
- 9 physical handicaps
- 7 vision problems

133 Total problems reported

## RICHLAND

- 37 learning problems
- 25 speech difficulties
- 12 hearing problems
- 6 physical handicaps
- 6 vision problems

86 Total problems reported

## ROOSEVELT

- 132 learning problems
- 38 speech difficulties
- 58 hearing problems
- 12 physical handicaps
- 24 vision problems

264 Total problems reported

## Group V

## The Child With

# SOME PROBLEMS

- He will find it increasingly difficult to keep up with his class, unless he gets help.
- He may be allowed to drift because the teacher does not have the time or the tools to help him.
- His loss of vision may not be discovered until it is too late if school or public nursing services are not available.

## BACK-GROUND

- Blindness in the United States is increasing, including loss of vision in children. Much of it could be prevented.
- Most parents with children who have vision problems would prefer to keep them in regular schools, if medical and visual conditions permit.

## Vision Problems

## **506 Vision Problems Reported**

# SOME ANSWERS

- He may require referral to a medical specialist to determine whether vision can be improved medically or with special glasses.
- He may need large-print textbooks, available from the State Department of Public Instruction.
- He may need special facilities, as a special resource room in his school where he can be given help by specialists.

## A NEED

Schools need regular screening programs to detect children with faulty vision.

### ROSEBUD

- 16 learning problems
- 8 speech difficulties
- 3 hearing problems
- 4 physical handicaps
- 8 vision problems
- 39 Total problems reported

## SANDERS

- 65 learning problems
- 32 speech difficulties
- 25 hearing problems
- 8 physical handicaps
- 7 vision problems
- 137 Total problems reported

## SHERIDAN

- 33 learning problems
- 21 speech difficulties
- 6 hearing problems
- 6 physical handicaps
- 2 vision problems
- 68

19

## SILVER BOW

276 learning problems

99 speech difficulties 103 hearing problems

87 physical handicaps

72 vision problems

637 Total problems reported

## STILLWATER

21 learning problems

7 speech difficulties

4 hearing problems

3 physical handicaps

3 vision problems

38 Total problems reported

## SWEET GRASS

8 learning problems

12 speech difficulties

4 hearing problems

2 physical handicaps

1 vision problem

27 Total problems reported

# THIS Montanans Are Doing:

- We have 48 special classes for children who are mentally retarded.
- We have mental hygiene clinics in five cities.
- Five public school districts have speech therapists.
- Schools in 32 districts are visited from one to four times each month by speech therapists of the Montana Elks' Mobile Speech and Hearing Clinics.
- There is one class for hard-of-hearing pupils.
- Two districts provide special education classes for physically handicapped children.
- We have enough specialists and facilities to help only one in eight of the special children reported to be in need of help.

## THIS Montanans Could Do:

- We could revise our special education laws to assist the public schools in their efforts to recognize, evaluate and help special children.
- We could provide more special classes for children with mental retardation.
- We could make available more psychological testing and more psychologists to help identify children who need help, and the kind of help they need.
- We could provide our schools with more speech and hearing therapists.
- We could establish special education classes for the hard-of-hearing students.
- We could help the seven of every eight children who need special help and who are not receiving help now.

#### TETON

- 21 learning problems
- 10 speech difficulties
- 4 hearing problems
- 2 physical handicaps
- 2 vision problems
- 39 Total problems reported

## TOOLE

- 27 learning problems
- 18 speech difficulties
- 9 hearing problems
- 5 physical handicaps
- 2 vision problems
- Total problems reported

## TREASURE

- 3 learning problems
- 10 speech difficulties
- 7 hearing problems
- 2 physical handicaps
- 2 vision problems

21

## VALLEY

- 71 learning problems
- 57 speech difficulties
- 28 hearing problems
- 16 physical handicaps
- 9 vision problems

181 Total problems reported

### WHEATLAND

- 6 learning problems
- 5 speech difficulties
- 2 hearing problems
- 1 physical handicap
- 1 vision problem

## Does Your School District

		Yes	No
1.	Individual psychological testing by a qualified psychologist to discover a pupil's strong and weak points in his learning ability?		
2.	School nurse or visiting public health nurse to do screening tests of vision and hearing; keep track of general student health; encourage good health habits of all pupils at school, at home?		
3.	Speech therapist to evaluate a pupil's speech problem?		
4.	Elementary class for mentally retarded students?		
5.	Secondary class for mentally retarded students?		

## Have These Services?

c	Dublic gehool groups thousand to give thousand or often	Yes	No
6.	Public school speech therapist to give therapy as often as needed?		
7.	Class for hard-of-hearing children?		
8.	Home or hospital instruction for sick or crippled children?		
9.	Class for physically handicapped children who cannot attend regular classes?		
0.	Resource room for children with vision problems?		

## WIBAUX

- 22 learning problems
  - 8 speech difficulties
  - 2 hearing problems
  - 2 physical handicaps
- 1 vision problem

35 Total problems reported

## YELLOWSTONE

- 390 learning problems
- 178 speech difficulties
- 79 hearing problems
- 105 physical handicaps
- 26 vision problems

## Will You Help? You CAN Help By ...

- . . . learning the facts about children in your school district who may need special education because of serious learning, speech, hearing, physical or vision difficulties
- . . . working with your school administrator, knowing he is interested in organizing and improving services to all children, including special children
- ... supporting your legislators; they are vitally interested in schools, and they know that helping special children with special problems helps all children in our schools
- . . . supporting legislation which will:
  - 1. provide special testing services necessary to discover children with learning problems
  - 2. clarify the special education laws which Montana already has
  - 3. help with the budget for first-year operation of special education classes
- . . . keeping in touch with the State Department of Public Instruction in Helena
- . . . telling your friends about this booklet

# ... Remembering That Special Children Need Special Help!

